position of pendency was reviewed and recommendations were made to provide additional infrastructure, staff, funds etc. Government also reviews the position of pendency of cases in consumer courts from time to time.

(c) The main factors responsible for mounting cases in consumer courts are frequent adjournments and irregular attendance particularly in the District Fora.

(d) Government has already amended the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 empowering the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up additional District Fora in a District, depending upon the workload. The responsibility, however, of setting up of the additional District Fora lies with the concerned State Government/ UT Administration. The Central Government has also agreed to give one time financial assistance to the State Governments and Union Territories to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer courts.

Review of infrastructure of consumer courts

3043. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an internal review of Government it has been found that the Consumer Courts' infrastructure is tottering and is bogged down by several malaises;

(b) if so, the reasons for Consumer Courts being bogged down with massive arrears; and

(c) the measures which Government propose to take at the Central level to ensure the smooth functioning of Consumer Courts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) The main factors responsible for the steep rise in pendency of cases in consumer courts are frequent adjournments and irregular attendance particularly in District Fora. In order to expedite disposal of cases, many State Governments are converting part time district Fora into full time. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 also provides for setting up of additional District Fora depending upon the workload. However, the responsibility of setting up of additional District Fora lies solely with the State Governments. Central Government has also been requesting all the States and Union Territories to monitor pendency in Consumer Courts and ensure expeditious disposal of pending cases. Central Government has also agreed to provide one time financial assistance to all the States and Union Territories for strengthening infrastructure of Consumer Courts to ensure quick disposal of cases.

Permission to NDDA for import of edible oil

3044. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that groundnut oil "Dhara" in Delhi and elsewhere in the country was ruling at Rupees 54/- per kilogram as against Rupees 48/- per kilogram in the last year;

(b) if so, what is the present demand-supply gap of edible oils indicating the quantity imported during 1995-96 as against 1994-95 so far indicating the price thereof;

(c) which are the edible oils put on the Open General Licence list and which are not freely importable; and

(d) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been granted permission to import edible oils in 1995-96 at the concessional duty of 20 per cent for the Public Distribution System; if so, whether NDDB has validated its commitment for the current fiscal year; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The prices of "Dhara" brand groundnut oil in Delhi as on 19.4.95 are as follows:—

Double Filtered Groundnut Oil	1 litre tetra brick	Rs. 47.00
	1 litre pouch	Rs. 45.00
Refined Groundnut Oil	1 litre tetra brick	Rs. 56 00

(b) At present there is a gap of nearly five to six lakh tonnes between the estimated demand and availability of indigenous edible oils in the country. Import of 1.07 lakh tonnes of RBD Palmolein valued at Rs. 198.94 crores was made by the State Trading Corporation (STC) for the Public Distribution System during 1994-95. The STC has been authorised to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of palmolein during 1995-96.

(c) The import of all edible oils other than Coconut Oil, Palm Kernel Oil, RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palm Stearin has been allowed under OGL.

(d) At present, STC is the only agency for import of edible oil for the PDS. The imports made by NDDB are for open market sale. From the year 1994-95 onwards and till date NDDB has been permitted to import 3.00 lakh tonnes of edible oils out of which NDDB has contracted a quantity of about 1.84 lakh tonnes and received a quantity of about 1.34 lakh tonnes as on 19.4.95.

भारतीय वनस्पति उत्पादों द्वारा तेल बोर्ड की स्थापना के सुझाव संबंधी ज्ञापन

3045. **श्री राम जेठमलानी** : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय वनस्पति उत्पादक संघ ने हाल ही में सरकार को एक ज्ञापन दिया है, जिसमें सुझाव दिया गया है कि देश में एक तेल बोर्ड स्थापित किया जाए ।

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस ज्ञापन में उक्त बोर्ड की स्थापना के औचित्य भी बताये गए हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में सरकार ने कोई निर्णय ले लिया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : (क) से (ग) भारतीय वनस्पति उत्पादक संघ ने खाद्य तिलहनों/वनस्पति तेलों, जिनमें वनस्पति घी शामिल है, से सम्बन्धित पांच मुद्दों के बारे में सरकार को एक ज्ञापन दिया है तथा तिलहनों/वनस्पति तेलों और वनस्पति हेतु एक "तेल बोर्ड" की स्थापना करना उनमें से एक है । यह सुझाव दिया गया है कि उक्त बोर्ड की एक समेकित नीति अपनाकर